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"Great work is done by people who are not afraid to be great"
-Eleanor Roosevelt

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Volume 57, Issue 1

The Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

August 28, 2008

JSU kicks Coca-Cola to curb

By Julie Skinner
News Editor

All over Jacksonville State University, blue is replacing red.

After over 20 years of Coca-Cola products being served in JSU's cafeteria, vending machines and concession stands at athletic events, this year's bid from Coca-Cola just didn't make the cut.

A proposal went out during the first of June to Buffalo Rock/Pepsi, Coca-Cola and one other beverage company that failed to respond. The bids from Coca-Cola and Pepsi were opened on Monday, July 21 and evaluated over the course of two weeks. Buf-

falo Rock/Pepsi was selected during the first week of August.

Joe Whitmore, director of institution support services, worked with the bids from the beginning

"Coca-Cola and Pepsi both placed bids with us, and both bids included exclusive beverage rights across campus including the cafeteria, the food court and all of the athletic venues; the concession stands and vending machines," Whitmore said.

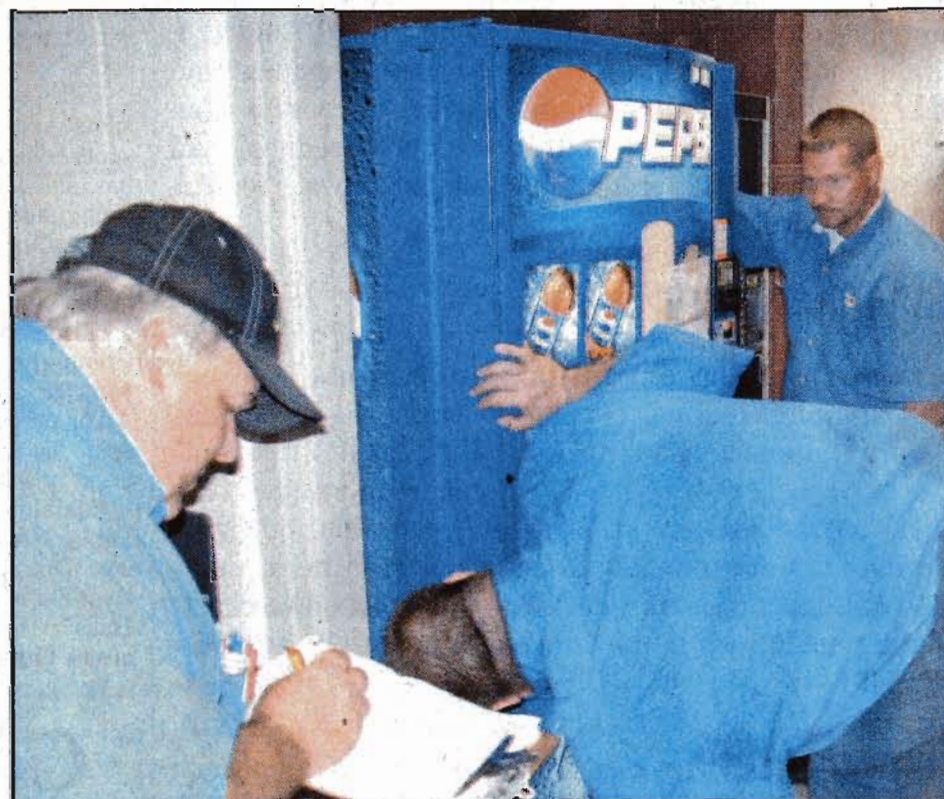
According to Whitmore, Coca Cola's bid just wasn't as financially beneficial to the university as Buffalo Rock/Pepsi's.

"The bid here was very, very close," Whitmore said.

"But Pepsi's was financially a little better, so that's why we went with them."

JSU receives commission on sales from vending machines and through the concession stands. Companies who bid also offer a certain amount of free products to be used for Student Government Association events and other campus meetings of that nature. This was also taken into consideration when deciding over Coca Cola and Buffalo Rock/Pepsi.

The changes in drink choices now include Sierra Mist in place of Sprite, Grapico in place of Grape Fanta, Gatorade in place of Powerade and of course,



Buffalo Rock employees fill the void left by Coca-Cola with a Pepsi vending machine in the student lounge in Self Hall. Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

See "Cola," page 3

Freshmen convocate

By Zach Childree
Editor In Chief

Incoming freshmen gathered at Pete Mathews Coliseum on Tuesday for the first annual Freshmen Convocation. The students were treated to music from the Marching Southerners as well as routines by the Jacksonville State University cheerleaders.

Student Government Association President Jennifer Nix welcomed the students to college with advice on surviving campus life.

"Don't start skipping class," Nix said. "Always be aware of the campus

ing the weekend.

"Don't let this be a 'suitcase' campus anymore," Nix said.

Nix said college was like a business trip to Las Vegas.

"You have a lot of work to do, but you should also have fun," Nix said. "College is about sitting around wearing pajamas with your friends till late at night when you know you have a class at 7 a.m."

Nix told the students to make smart choices about how they spend their free time. "Don't be stupid," Nix said of underage drinking.

Dean candidates to present

By Kandice Davis
Staff Writer

On September 4, at 2 p.m., the Gamecock community is invited to attend presentations given by Dr. John Hammett and Dr. Donna Burgraff, candidates for dean of College of Education and Professional studies. Presentations will be held on the 11th floor of Jacksonville State University's Houston Cole Library.

The search committee for dean of College of Education and Professional Studies was given criteria of what to look for in candidates to fill the

Burgraff were invited to campus for presentations.

The final candidates will have a chance to present to the campus community in an open forum. Dr. Joe Delap, head of the search committee, especially encourages students to attend.

"Students are encouraged to come out and engage in the process," Delap said. "Candidates will talk about how they will fill the position and students can ask questions."

One candidate in particular, Dr. Hammett, is no stranger to the JSU

Student Government Association President Jennifer Nix welcomed the students to college with advice on surviving campus life.

"Don't start skipping class," Nix said. "Always be aware of the campus police. If you are doing something you shouldn't be, they will catch you."

Nix also admonished the students to avoid high gas prices by walking to class and staying on campus dur-

class at 7 a.m."

Nix told the students to make smart choices about how they spend their free time. "Don't be stupid," Nix said of underage drinking.

University President Dr. Bill Meehan also took to the microphone as the students cheered. Meehan told stories about his time at Jacksonville State University as a freshman. One example, was a story about a time

See "Convocation," page 3

floor of Jacksonville State University's Houston Cole Library.

The search committee for dean of College of Education and Professional Studies was given criteria of what to look for in candidates to fill the position. The search for candidates was narrowed by announcing the position and conducted by interviewing approximately a half-dozen semi-finalists over the phone. Finally, Dr. Hammett and Dr.

out and engage in the process, Dr. Hammett said. "Candidates will talk about how they will fill the position and students can ask questions."

One candidate in particular, Dr. Hammett, is no stranger to the JSU community. He has worked for JSU since 1989, and most recently he served as associate dean of College of Education and Professional Studies, where he has worked since November 18, 2004.

See "Dean," page 3



Parents and students hauled boxes of belongings into the residence halls last week. Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

Students face new challenges at move-in

By Julie Skinner
News Editor

For many incoming students at Jacksonville State University, Friday, August 22 will forever be branded as a day of independence. A tiring day, full of moving, emotions and overwhelming changes. For this was move in day for freshmen living in residence halls.

JSU freshman Daniel Bates moved into Crowe Hall, an all-male residence hall, and was surprised by the first-floor restrooms.

"The first-floor showers are crazy, because they are like fire hoses. It hurts they're so strong," Bates said. "They make a wind current, and the curtains blow in on you. It's crazy."

Besides the slight disappointment in the restrooms, Bates said the move was

not too bad, though his mother was a bit emotional at his leaving.

"My mom was like, 'My baby is gone' and all that junk," Bates said with a laugh.

Parents and resident assistants were seen around campus helping freshmen move into their rooms and get settled in.

Beneath the bulky suitcases, mounds of groceries and shower supplies, many of the fresh out-of-high-school students looked scared and a bit uncertain.

"They are pretty nervous," Lebya Simpson, resident assistant at Fitzpatrick Hall said. "We just try to encourage them and tell them it's going to be okay."

According to Simpson, some useful tips for freshmen living in a residence

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On The Verge

New columnist Clark Barron offers his take on college life and how to survive.

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Lower the drinking age?

A new movement by college presidents around the country seeks to encourage debate about the current legal drinking age.

Page 2

Five reasons why...

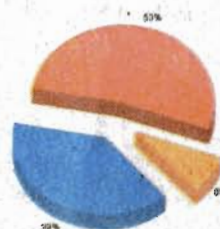
Will the Gamecocks stomp the Yellow Jackets or will we get stung? Sports Editor Jered Staubs gives you five reasons for either outcome.

Page 6

QUESTION of the WEEK

Should the legal drinking age be lowered to 18?

Yes 53% No 39%
I'm conflicted on the issue 24%



Next week's question:

How do you feel about security cameras on campus?

ONLINE @ thechanticleeronline.com

ON Campus

Briefs

JSU awards degrees at commencement ceremony

Jacksonville State University awarded 433 degrees at the summer commencement ceremony on Friday, August 8. The keynote speaker, Mr. Honor M. Bell, president and CEO of Gulf Coast Community Benefits Corporation, an organization that focuses on disaster preparedness and recovery, was also awarded the President's Award for Volunteer Service.

Announcements

Freshmen Forum accepting applications

Students interested in becoming involved in the Freshmen Forum must have applications to the Office of Student Life by Sept. 12 at 4:30 p.m. The Freshmen Forum works alongside the Student Government Association and gives freshmen the opportunity to be involved in the student government process. For more information contact Mardracus Russell in the Office of Student Life at (256) 782-5491.

Campus Crime

August 1, 2008

Kelly Roberts reported a theft of property at Merrill Building. Stolen was a 19" Dell flat screen computer monitor valued at \$130.

August 2, 2008

Akemi Jimpachi reported an indecent exposure outside Sparkman Hall.

August 13, 2008

Stephanie Trichelle Thomas reported a theft of property on the 10th floor of Houston Cole Library. Stolen was a blue Samsung cell phone valued at \$180.

What's Happening

Thursday, August 28

- Football game, Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

Wireless expands to cover campus

New Wi-Fi access spots added over the summer

By KANDACE DAVIS
Staff Writer

For those of us who get some of our best school work done at late hours, or those early morning people who like to get a head start on our day, we appreciate the convenience of wireless Internet "hot-spots."

With over 70 wireless or "wi-fi" spots on campus, including recent spots added over the summer, JSU has shown a commitment to offering students variety in areas to utilize their own PCs on campus. Whether you want to gather for a group study session or find a personal quiet spot for you and your laptop, there are more options for you campus wide.

The newest additions to the "hot-spot" list are as follows: The quad area nearest Bibb Graves Hall, Leadership House, Patterson Hall Lobby (student lounge area), Theater/Drama area in Stone Center, Roundhouse, Dixon and Crowe Halls (1st floor student lounge area), Fitzpatrick and Curtis Halls

(basement area). Other popular spots that have wireless connections: Theron Montgomery Building's food court, cafeteria, Gamecock Center and Stephenson Hall. Sparkman Hall and Houston Cole Library are the buildings with the most complete coverage, generally on every floor.

The JSU wireless network is not only convenient, but it is also very secure. Mark Matthews of Academic and Computer Services, who is responsible for installation, assures that only JSU faculty, staff, and students are able to access the network by first registering, using your MyJSU account.

To complete registration, you must first be in range of the wireless network. Once access is attempted, the system will automatically prompt to enter information and sign an agreement. The network is set to update for any new registrations every 15 minutes. In 15 minutes or less, you will be able to access the network and begin surfing the web.

There are still more hotspots to

come in the near future, although there is so specific timeline set. Expect buildings such as Brewer Hall, Rowe Hall, Self Hall, and Pete Matthews Coliseum to have wireless access soon. "The ultimate goal is to ensure that all academic buildings have wireless access in at least the lobby areas," Matthews said. "In general, do not expect to have wireless Internet access while in the classroom."

There may be concerns that wireless connection may have negative impacts on the classroom. However, Matthews doesn't really foresee any negative impacts of wi-fi on the campus community. Each access point is monitored, and Matthews said he is confident that Houston Cole Library is definitely used for research and scholastic purposes. Other areas are generally for both academic and personal uses.

Matthews' said a potential concern was making sure the network will keep up with demand, which increases every year. "We just have to be sure that our bandwidth can keep up with demand," he said.

College Presidents seek debate on minimum drinking age

By JUSTIN POPE
Associated Press Writer

College presidents from about 100 of the nation's best-known universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, are calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, saying current laws actually encourage dangerous binge drinking on campus.

The movement called the Amethyst Initiative began quietly recruiting presidents more than a year ago to provoke national debate about the drinking age.

"This is a law that is routinely evaded," said John McCardell, former president of Middlebury College in Vermont who started the organization. "It is a law that the people at whom it is directed believe is unjust and unfair and discriminatory."

Other prominent schools

colleges suffer injuries each year related in some way to drinking, and about 1,700 die in such accidents.

A recent Associated Press analysis of federal records found that 157 college-age people, 18 to 23, drank themselves to death from 1999 through 2005.

Moana Jagasia, a Duke University sophomore from Singapore, where the drinking age is lower, said reducing the age in the U.S. could be helpful.

"There isn't that much difference in maturity between 21 and 18," she said. "If the age is younger, you're getting exposed to it at a younger age, and you don't freak out when you get to campus."

McCardell's group takes its name from ancient Greece, where the purple gemstone amethyst was widely believed to ward off drunkenness if used in drinking vessels and jewelry. He said college students will drink no matter what, but do so

What's Happening

Thursday, August 28

- Football game, Georgia Tech's Bobby Dodd Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
- Fall classes commence.
- Voter registration drive, Theron Montgomery Building, 2nd floor. 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, August 29

- Gamecock Spirit Day. Wear red or your Cockey shirt.
- Voter registration drive, Theron Montgomery Building, 2nd floor, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 30

- Cross country meet, season opener, Oxford, 9:00 a.m.

Monday, September 1

- Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 2

- SGA pool party, Pete Mathews Coliseum, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 3

- Gamecock Game Night, Theron Montgomery Building Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

The Chanticleer

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McCarden, former president of Middlebury College in Vermont who started the organization. "It is a law that the people at whom it is directed believe is unjust and unfair and discriminatory."

Other prominent schools in the group include Syracuse, Tufts, Colgate, Kenyon and Morehouse.

But even before the presidents begin the public phase of their efforts, which may include publishing newspaper ads in the coming weeks, they are already facing sharp criticism.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving says lowering the drinking age would lead to more fatal car crashes. It accuses the presidents of misrepresenting science and looking for an easy way out of an inconvenient problem. MADD officials are even urging parents to think carefully about the safety of colleges whose presidents have signed on.

"It's very clear the 21-year-old drinking age will not be enforced at those campuses," said Laura Dean-Mooney, national president of MADD.

Both sides agree alcohol abuse by college students is a huge problem.

Research has found more than 40 percent of college students reported at least one symptom of alcohol abuse or dependence. One study has estimated more than 500,000 full-time students at four-year



de -
the trend.

But the statement makes clear the signers think the current law isn't working, citing a "culture of dangerous, clandestine binge-drinking," and noting that while adults under 21 can vote and enlist in the military, they "are told they are not mature enough to have a beer." Furthermore, "by choosing to use fake IDs, students make ethical compromises that erode respect for the law."

"I'm not sure where the dialogue will lead, but it's an important topic to American families and it deserves a straightforward dialogue," said William

See "Drinking," page 3

Drama department planning diverse season

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

The drama department here at Jacksonville State University is planning for a well-rounded season of shows.

The first play, "Fences," is directed by Susan McCain and features an all-black cast.

"It's about how our parents provide us with the skills and lessons they think we need to operate in the world," McCain said. "And how that changes with each generation."

McCain said the role of Troy, in the play, was originated on Broadway by James Earl Jones and encouraged aspiring black actors on campus to come to the auditions for the play at the Ernest Stone Center. McCain also directed last year's all-black drama "Other People's Dreams."



The second play is "Tartuffe" by French comedic playwright, Moliere, directed by Dr. Wayne Claeren.

This year's musical is "Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet" and is directed by Eric Traynor.

"I'm thrilled to be doing it," Traynor said. "[Sweeney Todd] is my favorite Sondheim musical."

Traynor said "Sweeney Todd" is a little darker than past musicals.

"It's the story of a man who's

been wrongly imprisoned, seeks revenge and goes mad doing it," he said. "I love this show because it works with such diverse and complicated characters."

Traynor said he hopes to recruit new actors from around campus who might not normally audition. "I hope to get some new talent involved," Traynor said.

Auditions for "Sweeney Todd" will be held in late October.

Other shows being produced by the department in the spring are "Sylvia" and "Death by Darkness."

Alpha Psi Omega will also produce "Lost in Yonkers," which will benefit the fraternity's scholarship fund.

Auditions for the first show of the season, "Fences," are September 2, at 6 p.m.

Convocation: Students taught cheers

when he and his friends decided to “reverse parachute” in the open field where the coliseum now stands. He and his friends tied the parachute to the back of a car and pulled the parachute into the air with Meehan attached.

“When I landed, parts of me were red, parts were black and blue,” Meehan said.

Meehan told the students to worry more about character than reputation.

“Reputation is what people think about you,” Meehan said. “Character is what people know about you.”

Football Coach Jack Crowe encouraged the students to be optimistic about the future.

“Sociologists tell us that your generation is about to change everything,” Crowe said.

The program ended with the cheerleaders teaching the JSU fight song to the students and Nix drawing door prizes. The prizes included \$100 Wal-Mart gift cards and two \$500 scholarships provided by the JSU Alumni Association.

Nix then drew the name of a freshman, Keenan Askew, who ended the program by tapping a bell provided by the ROTC that signified the beginning of the school year at Jacksonville State University.



RIGHT: Jennifer Nix and Ma'dracus Russell, shown in the left foreground, gaze at a coliseum full of freshmen while the Jacksonville State University cheerleaders prepare to lead the group in a cheer. Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

Dean: Candidates to present Sept. 4

Prior to his position as associate dean of CEPS, Dr. Hammett worked in the Health Physical Education and Recreation Department for which he helped establish a BS degree in exercise science and wellness and revamped the BSE degree in physical education. Then, in 2001, he was named Department Head of HPER.

Furthermore, JSU is Dr. Hammett's alma mater. He earned a BSE in Health and Physical Education with certification in English as well as a Master's Degree in physical education.

Dr. Donna Burgraff will travel over 1100 miles to campus for her presentation on September 4th. Dr. Burgraff has served as dean of College of Business, Education and Professional Studies at Southwest Minnesota State University since June 1, 2005.

The distance she will have to travel may not post much of a problem, however. Prior to moving to Minnesota, she worked in Pennsylvania as the assistant dean of

over 20 years, Dr. Burgraff has held both faculty and administrative positions in education institutions.

The search for a dean was sparked by the retirement of former dean, Dr. Cynthia Harper. She began her career at JSU in 1975, where she climbed the ranks and in 2003 became the Dean of CEPS in 2003. While Dr. Harper accomplished many things during her tenure, there are two ventures left for her successor to complete.

During this academic year, the College of Education is preparing to develop a Notification to Submit a Proposal (NISP) to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for a doctorate in education. In addition, with classroom and office space in Ramona Wood at capacity, fundraising efforts will continue for the Ramona Wood Annex.

According to Dr. Delap, Dr. Meehan and Dr. Turner (VP for Academic and

Cola: Coke loses university bid

Pepsi will replace Coke.

JSU isn't the only university that has recently changed over to Pepsi products. According to Whitmore, earlier this month the University of Alabama reported that they too were switching to Pepsi products on campus.

Though the drink choices have changed, prices will remain the same, Whitmore said. Opinions of the change have quickly ignited around campus leaving some pleased and others peeved.

For Allen Back, a JSU senior majoring in Recreation Leadership, drinking Pepsi is a family tradition.

“I’ve always drank Pepsi,” Back said. “My great grandfather and grandfather were bottlers for Pepsi, so my family has drank it for three generations.”

Justin Gravette, a senior majoring in Biology, has a different opinion when it comes to Coke products.

“Pepsi sucks, Coke is better,” Gravette said. “I want Coke back.”

Tim Wyatt is satisfied with the change to Pepsi products, but is most fond of the fact that the machines just aren't filled with new product, but the actual vending machines are new.

“I prefer the taste of Pepsi,” Wyatt said. “I

think it's a good thing, because there's all new machines around campus, and Pepsi is making a promise to the students that through these new machines, is an unspoken contract of quality assurance.”

Whitmore is aware of mixed emotions throughout campus, but says that reactions have been more positive than negative.

“Disappointment is going to happen anytime there's change,” Whitmore said.

The near 80 Pepsi machines should be completely installed by the first day of school.

of Business, Education and Professional Studies at Southwest Minnesota State University since June 1, 2005.

The distance she will have to travel may not post much of a problem, however. Prior to moving to Minnesota, she worked in Pennsylvania as the assistant dean of the College of Education at Kutztown University located in Kutztown, PA. For

In addition, with classroom and office space in Ramona Wood at capacity, fundraising efforts will continue for the Ramona Wood Annex.

According to Dr. Delap, Dr. Meehan and Dr. Turner (VP for Academic and Student Affairs) hope to have a decision made by October 1.

Move In: Immunizations recommended

hall for the first time are to be responsible for all personal belongings, be prepared for anything to happen, clean up after one's self and to be aware that other people share the bathrooms on each floor. With these tips, Simpson thinks freshmen living on their own for the first time will have less trouble adapting to their surroundings.

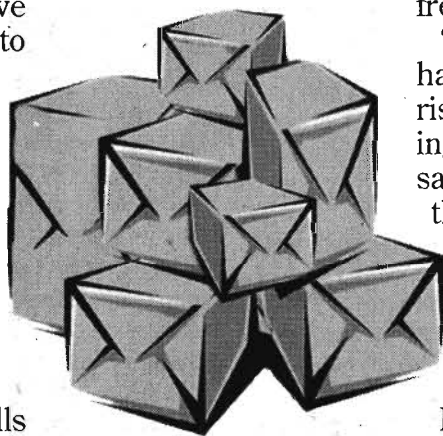
"Being on their own and not having mom and dad here anymore is their biggest transition," Simpson said. "Bad decisions are what will get them into trouble."

The residence halls at JSU have rules and regulations for students to abide by. Some of the things prohibited are alcohol, drugs, assault, weapons, vandalism and smoking.

Residents are also prohibited from using hot plates, electric grills, toaster ovens and 'fry daddys'. They are allowed to have coffee makers and rice cookers.

While those residing in a dorm are allowed to come and go as they please without curfew, they do have to show a color-coded key tag when entering the

building. The color is assigned according to residence hall. Visitors must also obey visitation hours which are from 2 p.m. – 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 12 p.m. – 2 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 12 p.m. – 11 p.m. on Sundays. Each visitor must supply a photo id and be



escorted at all times.

Brooke Bell, assistant director of university housing and residence life, student development and educational programming explains that there are health and safety inspections in the residence halls each month by RAs.

"They inspect each room looking for health concerns and safety violations and maintenance issues," Bell said. "Residents are given notice of the inspection week and RAs may perform inspections at any time during that week."

While each student should be up-to-date on immunizations before beginning college, one vaccine not required but strongly recommended is the meningitis vaccine. Nancy Edge-Schmitz, director of student health services, says meningitis often affects incoming freshmen.

"Entering freshmen have a six time greater risk of contracting meningitis," Edge-Schmitz said. "This is because they're around more people and exposed to things they weren't around in high school."

The Student Health Center at JSU offers the vaccine for \$92 and charges the cost to students' accounts. Edge-Schmitz says that most private insurance companies will pay for the meningitis vaccine for incoming freshmen. If a student doesn't have insurance, many health departments will give the Meningitis vaccine free to students who have not turned 19 yet.

While adjusting to college life and living in a residence hall may be trying, for many, it's all a part of the college experience.

"I think I'll be just fine," Bates said.

peevied.

For Allen Back, a JSU senior majoring in Recreation Leadership, drinking Pepsi is a family tradition.

the machines just aren't filled with new product, but the actual vending machines are new.

"I prefer the taste of Pepsi," Wyatt said. "I

more said.

The near 80 Pepsi machines should be completely installed by the first day of school.

Drinking: group seeks 'informed' debate

Troutt, president of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., who has signed the statement.

But some other college administrators sharply disagree that lowering the drinking age would help. University of Miami President Donna Shalala, who served as secretary of health and human services under President Clinton, declined to sign.

"I remember college campuses when we had 18-year-old drinking ages, and I honestly believe we've made some progress," Shalala said in a telephone interview. "To just shift it back down to the high schools makes no sense at all."

McCardell claims that his experiences as a president and a parent, as well as a historian studying Prohibition, have persuaded him the drinking age isn't working.

But critics say McCardell has badly misrepresented the research by suggesting that the decision to raise the drinking age from 18 to 21 may not have saved lives.

In fact, MADD CEO Chuck Hurley said, nearly all peer reviewed studies looking at the change showed raising the drinking age reduced drunk-driving deaths. A survey of

research from the U.S. and other countries by the Centers for Disease Control and others reached the same conclusion.

McCardell cites the work of Alexander Wagenaar, a University of Florida epidemiologist and expert on how changes in the drinking age affect safety. But Wagenaar himself sides with MADD in the debate.

The college presidents "see a problem of drinking on college campuses, and they don't want to deal with it," Wagenaar said in a telephone interview. "It's really unfortunate, but the science is very clear."

Another scholar who has extensively researched college binge-drinking also criticized the presidents' initiative.

"I understand why colleges are doing it, because it splits their students, and they like to treat them all alike rather than having to card some of them. It's a nuisance to them," said Henry Wechsler of the Harvard School of Public Health.

But, "I wish these college presidents sat around and tried to work out ways to deal with the problem on their campus rather than try to eliminate the problem by defining it out of existence," he said.

Duke faced accusations of ignoring the heavy drinking that formed the backdrop of 2006 rape allegations against three lacrosse players. The rape allegations proved to be a hoax, but the alcohol-fueled party was never disputed.

Duke senior Wey Ruepten said university officials should accept the reality that students are going to drink and give them the responsibility that comes with alcohol.

"If you treat students like children, they're going to act like children," he said.

Duke President Richard Brodhead declined an interview request. But he wrote in a statement on the Amethyst Initiative's Web site that the 21-year-old drinking age "pushes drinking into hiding, heightening its risks." It also prevents school officials "from addressing drinking with students as an issue of responsible choice."

Hurley, of MADD, has a different take on the presidents.

"They're waving the white flag," he said.

Associated Press Writer Barbara Rodriguez contributed to this report from Durham, N.C.

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www.thechanticleeronline.com**



Our view: Pardon our mess

The Chanticleer looks a little different this semester because of a few new designs we're trying out.

We hope to make the paper more visually appealing to the students at JSU as well as providing interesting articles that you, our reader, want to read.

This first issue of The Chanticleer was put together with a skeleton staff working long into the night and even most of the morning. We hope that you will do more than just read the newspaper, but become involved in its production.

We here at The Chanticleer are always on the lookout for new writers with fresh ideas. We hope that if you have an idea for a feature or a story, you will email us (chantyeditor@gmail.com), call us (256-782-5701) or even stop by the office (180 Self Hall) and share your ideas.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of The Chanticleer as much as we love putting out the paper every week.

See you next Thursday!

On The Verge



As a new writer for *The Chanticleer*,

by Clark Barron

college life other than college itself.

Take this into consideration; Mark Twain once said, "I have never let schooling interfere with my education." Truer words have never been spoken. We often let every other one of life's little problems control our time in college. We often lose sight of why we're actually here. Maybe it is because there are simply too many distractions.

However, perhaps we can blame

A Coked-up convention

By Scott Green
UWIRE

When the Democratic National Convention commences Monday, Americans will be forced to pick a side: Coke or Pepsi.

This is because the convention, held at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., has signed Coca-Cola as its official recycling partner. Never mind that "Official Recycling Partner" is about as relevant to a political convention as "Official Showerhead Partner" or "Official Ethics Partner."

Coke will be inside Pepsi's building! Up will be down! Day will be night! Peanut butter will be jelly! A major political party will nominate a non-white male for President!

Every state gets as long as it wants to introduce itself and award its votes: The rest of the convention is mostly spent by politicians giving speeches about how great the candidate will be and why he or she (just kidding, it's always a he) will be the bestest president ever.

At least I think that's what happens. I've never watched these parts of past conventions. I usually spend that time doing less boring things, like making sure my arm hairs are all the same length.

Convention organizers seem to know people don't pay much attention, because this year they've

taken steps to spice things up. They're going to





As a new writer for *The Chanticleer*, the challenge arises to present something to you, the student, which will hopefully be of some interest. It is quite the challenge considering that it is extremely hard to keep the average college student's attention, myself included. I want to present a point of view that will be relatable and will take a different standpoint on college life.

It is hard to remember what life was like before college. Some can remember those days of having no responsibility other than going to high school and passing. However, the majority of the current college population can probably attest to having been in a place where the answers to all of life's questions seem to never come, and the only thing we can think about are things we have never had to think about before. Most of us have been thrown into a world of responsibility and independence that in no way resembles what we had before college.

It is quite the change considering you have to worry about things like where the rent money is coming from and whether or not you have time to actually study. After the first year of college, you realize that college is going to be a lot harder than you thought. There are so many outside forces that seem to have an impact on

education. Truer words have never been spoken. We often let every other one of life's little problems control our time in college. We often lose sight of why we're actually here. Maybe it is because there are simply too many distractions.

However, perhaps we can blame nothing but ourselves. Too often, we are not worrying about getting assignments in on time, but we are too busy stressing out about the only three things in life that ever really seem to matter: life, love and money.

What is it that we're actually here to do? We are here to simply jump through the hoops of the decadent and depraved world of college politics and social norms.

You bite the bullet, do what they say, get that piece of paper, and start your life.

However, it's easier said than done considering how much the average college student actually has to worry about other than school itself. Most people never really see how hard it is to be a college student in this day and age. Not only are there many things working against you such as money, the pressure from parents, and every vice known to man, but there are several things that we can learn from not letting these things get in the way.

To the ones out there struggling not with "college life" but rather "life while you just happen to be in college," take a step back and think about why you're really here. Do it for no one but yourself. It's your life, and the only person that can truly affect it is you.

political convention as "Official Showerhead Partner" or "Official Ethics Partner."

Coke will be inside Pepsi's building! Up will be down! Day will be night! Peanut butter will be jelly!

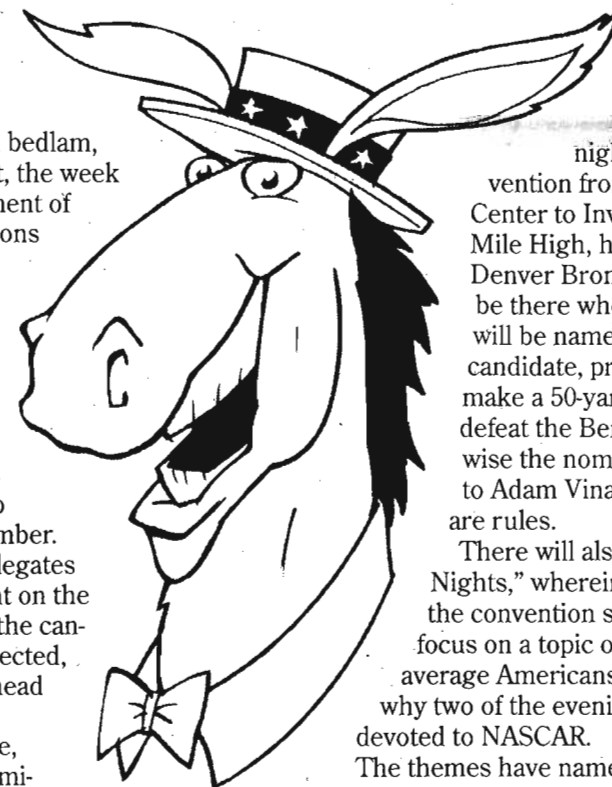
A major political party will nominate a non-white male for President!

Enjoy the Coke-Pepsi bedlam, because aside from that, the week will have all the excitement of a good coma. Conventions were exciting a century ago. In 1880, the Republicans took 30 ballots to nominate James A. Garfield, and that was only after a compromise wherein, to appease his detractors, he agreed to die the following September.

But back then the delegates chose the nominee right on the convention floor. Now the candidates are popularly elected, and everyone knows ahead of time whom it'll be.

This year, for example, the Republicans will nominate John McCain, and the Democrats will pick James A. Garfield. No, sorry, McCain hasn't run against Garfield in 128 years. The Democrats will instead nominate Barack Hussein Qaddafi Castro Mussolini Strawberry Shortcake Obama.

They will do this very slowly. For those of you watching on TV - or for McCain, who will be following via telegraph - the actual nomination will sound something like this: "Ladies and gentlemen, the great state of Wyoming, 'The Gerund State,' home of the world's largest mustard seed, the state that totally does not owe Nebraska \$50, is proud to cast our seven eighths of a vote to what-shisface, uh, the black one."



hairs are all the same length. Convention organizers seem to know people don't pay much attention, because this year they've

taken steps to spice things up. They're going to move the final night of the convention from the Pepsi Center to Invesco Field at Mile High, home of the Denver Broncos. It will be there where Obama will be named the party's candidate, provided he can make a 50-yard field goal to defeat the Bengals. Otherwise the nomination goes to Adam Vinatieri. Rules are rules.

There will also be "Theme Nights," wherein each day of the convention speeches will focus on a topic of interest to average Americans, which is why two of the evenings will be devoted to NASCAR.

The themes have names like "Renewing America's promise," "Securing America's future," "Cramping America's style," and "Checking America's prostate." Actually the first night will be "One Nation," whatever that means, and the last night will be "Change you can believe in," which was narrowly chosen over "Let's talk about change," "Time for change to change," "Oh, I totally forgot to mention, there should be change," and "Change change change change change change change change."

If things go to plan, the Democrats will have a top-notch convention, and millions of citizens will be swayed. After they wake from their comas, they'll be Coke drinkers for life.

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our offices in **Room 180, Self Hall**, or to the mailing address to the left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantyeditor@gmail.com.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous or defamatory. Letters may be edited for style, brevity or clarity. *The Chanticleer* reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.

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Jered Staubs

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It's just Staubvious

In a year where everything around in Jacksonville is changing — that's what the whole sports section is about, Jim Fuller is leaving, even Jeff Dunnivant left the sports information department — Jared Gravette and I are still around to cover JSU athletics.

I love that Ryan Perrilloux is here. That said, anyone seen wearing a "Geaux Gamecocks" shirt should be shot on sight. What a disgrace.

"Cocky" is horrible, but I would get that tattooed on my forehead before I would wear a "Geaux Gamecocks" shirt.

On a semi-related note, as much as everyone talks about Devin Hester, the most important Hester in the NFL this season will be playing fullback and backup running back in San Diego.

There was a time when I thought fantasy sports were for dorks. Actually, I still think that, now I just accept that I'm a dork. The man crush I have on Tim Lincecum would be unacceptable otherwise.

The SI cover jinx couldn't even affect Lincecum. Hopefully this column won't.

Now that my Royals (Get 'em KC) have been eliminated from playoff contention, I want the Angels to win it all. Jered Weaver spells the first name the same way I do, and I don't know anyone else who does.

You forget how captivating the Olympics are, you really do. Every other year, it's 'Yawn, the Olympics are coming up,' and every time I watch as much as I can.

Props to Michael Phelps. There's nothing I can say that

The times, they are a-changin'

Perrilloux, Johnson two of several new faces on display in season opener

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

Every college football team experiences change between seasons, but the two schools kicking off their season at Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta tonight have that market cornered.

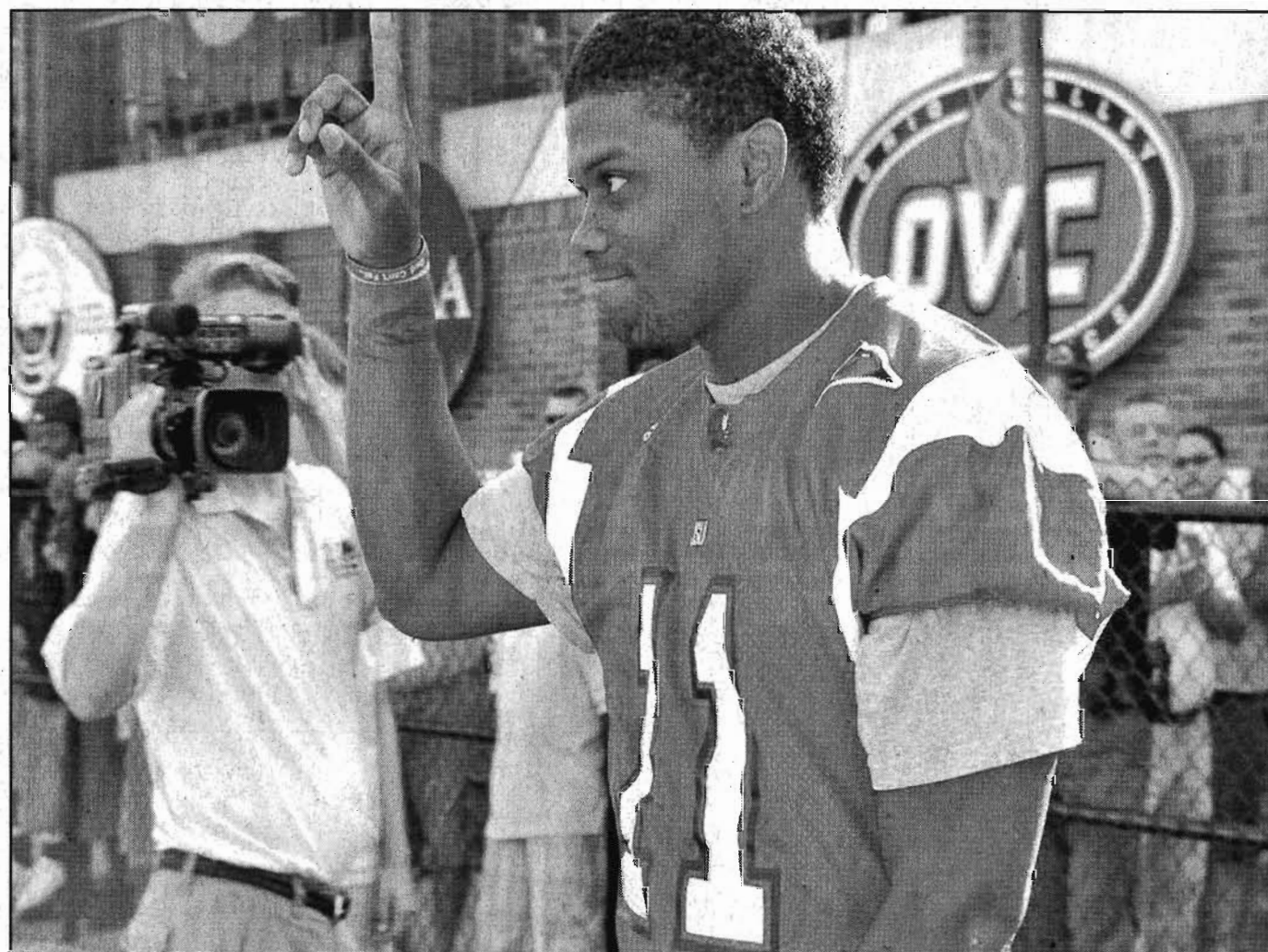
More than half of the Jacksonville State Gamecocks have never played a game for the school before. Most notably is quarterback Ryan Perrilloux, who transferred to JSU after winning a national championship at LSU. The Gamecocks will also have a new starting running back in Tremayne Coger, who transferred from Alabama.

The host Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets underwent even more of an upheaval in the offseason. The Yellow Jackets have by far the youngest team in the ACC, and lost four-year starting quarterback Reggie Ball and All-ACC running back Tashard Choice. Head coach Chan Gailey was fired despite taking Tech to a bowl game in each of his six seasons in Atlanta.

Replacing Gailey is former Navy coach Paul Johnson, who is famous for his triple option offense that is so simple it's complicated. Johnson has said in the past that he doesn't give his players playbooks and that there are only five or six different plays in the system.

It's obviously not so simple to defend, as Navy finished at or near the top of the NCAA in rushing offense the past five seasons while compiling a 43-19 record. That's quite a turnaround from a school that began the decade 3-30, and it's more than enough to get JSU head coach Jack Crowe's attention.

"I see all kinds of problems, because this is a fullback-first



New Jacksonville State quarterback Ryan Perrilloux acknowledges the fans who turned out to support the team at Paul Snow Stadium on Fan Day earlier this month. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

offense, and I think you'd have to go back to Campbell at Texas to where you had such a great athlete running in such a similar situation," he said. "It was easy to see at the end of last year that he (Jonathan Dwyer) was the next guy that was fixing to be an All-ACC running back."

Crowe repeated his praise of Dwyer several times saying, "I think in Jonathan Dwyer they probably have a better player than they've ever had at that position," and adding that the ability to tackle Dwyer will determine whether JSU has a

chance of pulling an upset.

Navy rushed for 348.8 yards per game last year — while no one else in the nation rushed for 300 a game — and stopping that system will be a large task for anyone. For a Football Championship Series team (which most people still refer to as Division I-AA) that would always be a big task, but for JSU it will be especially tough. The Gamecocks return only three returning starters on that side of the ball.

One of the key cogs is senior linebacker Marquise Elston, the lone member of the

defense who earned preseason All-OVC honors. Elston emphasized the importance of staying mentally aware against this type of offense.

"It's different for us because we're a very fast team and we run to the ball a lot," Elston said. "Having to sit back and wait for a play to develop, it's a little different, and we have the best tools to get us prepared for it, and we've been working on it since spring."

Though it is commonly thought of as a slow-moving offense that attempts to control the ball for long

stretches, a single misread or mental mistake can lead to a quick gain, and Crowe feels Tech may have other wrinkles because it has superior athletes to what Johnson had at his previous positions.

"I think they may look like a traditional one-back team at times," he said. "Greg Smith led them in receptions last year and he's playing what amounts to a running back position, so I can see the possibilities there. But do we know exactly what they're

See "Changes," page 7

anyone else who does.

You forget how captivating the Olympics are, you really do. Every other year, it's 'Yawn, the Olympics are coming up,' and every time I watch as much as I can.

Props to Michael Phelps. There's nothing I can say that everyone else hasn't already said, but I'm sure I wasn't the only person in this country to find myself caring about swimming for the first time in my life.

Sorry Tiger, sorry Lorena, Michael Phelps dominates his sport like nobody else. This is no longer open for discussion.

Bela Karolyi is an awesome name and an awesome man, and his interviews were captivating.

My buddy Pig called me one night to ask if Rob Schneider would sue Karolyi for stealing his constant "You can do it" lines.

At one point Karolyi nearly went off the deep end talking about how my future wife Nastia Liukin kept getting screwed by the judges.

A network like NBC couldn't figure out how to say Nastia's last name? Every day for the week or so she competed, I heard it pronounced Loo-kin and Lee-ooh-kin.

The soccer coaching was the worst I've seen since ... ooh, I better not go there.

I saw "Pineapple Express" and the USA/Germany field hockey match the same day, and the latter was funnier. The movie was OK (Finally a Judd Apatow movie without the intolerable Jonah Hill), but the game reached new heights of unintentional comedy.

The flopping would make Vlade Divac proud, the mishits ... oh, and we have a player named Lingo. (The people on Lingo are the worst contestants in game show history. *South Park*'s Randy Marsh put forth a better effort on *Wheel of Fortune* than most of these geniuses.

I watched approximately 10 hours of volleyball. After all that time (and the 12 minutes I had spent watching volleyball prior to 8/8/08), I still have no clue as to the purpose of the libero.

It is a mildly enjoyable sport to watch - though I much preferred its relative, involving two-person teams and a beach (I think this is called beach volleyball) - but we'll let Mr. Gravette continue to cover as much JSU volleyball as possible.

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See "Changes," page 7

Five reasons why...

The Jackets will beat up on JSU

1. Paul Johnson

No offense to Jack Crowe, but here's the list of coaches I'd rather have coaching my team than Paul Johnson: Bob Stoops, Dan Hawkins and Mark Richt. The work Johnson accomplished at Navy with inferior athletes was remarkable, and the possibilities now that he will be bringing in ACC athletes is scary. Jack Crowe is already on record as saying that he feels Johnson will win an ACC title at Tech, and he said in his weekly press conference that he is the perfect fit for the personnel in place.

2. The Georgia Tech defensive front

Defensive end Michael Johnson is expected to be a very high draft pick, and tackles Vance Walker and Darryl Richard are expected to be legitimate NFL players as well. None of the JSU offensive linemen have ever faced anything like what they'll face tonight, and even Ryan Perrilloux did not encounter a defensive line this dominant in his time at LSU - except for perhaps on the practice field.

3. The first five minutes

Crowe touched on this multiple times during his Monday press conference. When playing a team on the road as a big underdog, it's important not to get knocked out early. Two years ago, JSU allowed two non-offensive touchdowns in the first half at Mississippi State to trail 14-3. In 2003, JSU went to Kansas, and the Jayhawks "scored 21 points in about eight plays," as Crowe put it.

If JSU gets down early, especially if it's by double digits, it's going to be very difficult to come back against a team that can run the ball and milk the clock as well as Georgia Tech will.

4. Appalachian State

A lot of people point to Appalachian State's win at Michigan last year as paving the way for more upsets of that ilk. Here's my concern: All any coach has to do to get his team ready to play is pop in this tape. Paul Johnson appears to be taking it to the next level:

"Having coached on that level, I know how excited those guys are going to be to play. You're going to have part of the team, like Perrilloux or the starting tailback that was at Alabama or some of the other guys, that have played in front of big crowds and the other part of the team will come in with a chip on their shoulder because they may not have been recruited by some of the bigger schools. They have a point to prove - they are going to prove that the rest of (the schools) messed up because 'I'm better than that guy and you should have taken me.' So we have to be ready to play from an effort standpoint because I'm sure that they are going to come out here and play hard."

Oh yeah, and Appalachian State was really, really good last year. They had just won the national championship the year before, and were starting a year when they won it again. JSU isn't even ranked in the FCS right now.

5. Depth

JSU has a handful of players who could step in and play at Georgia Tech. But Georgia Tech has second and third string players who could be stars in Jacksonville. In a game where Georgia Tech's offense seems likely to be on the field for the majority of the game, it's easy to see JSU wearing down even if the game is competitive for a quarter or half.

JSU can compete with GA Tech

1. Ryan Perrilloux

This is the most obvious, and it cannot be underemphasized. Having a playmaker that can take the game in his hands for stretches will make for some nervous moments for the Georgia Tech defense.

2. Special teams

Georgia Tech lost punter Durant Brooks and kicker Travis Bell a year ago, and new coach Paul Johnson admitted it was a worry.

"That's the one big part that nobody has talked about that as a football coach I find ironic - the kicking game here. Everyone wants to talk about the offense or whatever, but the kicking game, to me, is the hardest thing that we have to replace."

Johnson's lack of understanding of the concept of irony aside, he makes a valid point. If Georgia Tech's kicking game is shaky at all, the Gamecocks have a major advantage in that area, and with Marcus Dupree being one of the biggest game-changers in college football, JSU could exploit the special teams aspects of the game and have an advantage in field position throughout the night.

3. Turnovers

As difficult as the triple option offense can be to stop when it is run properly - 1995 Nebraska is the most unstoppable offense I've ever seen - mistakes can be made. There are many ball exchanges that take place in the triple option, and if JSU can force three or four turnovers, there is hope.

"Turnovers and special teams we have been really big on this camp," Marquise Elston said. "If we can win the turnovers and win the special teams, the odds are in our favor. We've been doing a lot of work on that, because we know if we can win those two things we can win the game."

4. Confidence

This goes back to Perrilloux in many ways. The confidence Perrilloux brings with him from his past success has rubbed off on his teammates. Even Crowe is confident. Despite saying Georgia Tech will win an ACC title under Johnson, despite comparing Dwyer to Earl Campbell, Crowe made the following statement:

"We're capable of making this a competitive football game."

If JSU gets off to a quick start, that confidence will only build, and there is a chance something strange could happen in Atlanta.

5. Uncertainty

As much as Jack Crowe, Paul Johnson, or anyone else can talk about what they expect to happen, no one knows. Most people expect JSU to be a good FCS team and Georgia Tech to be a decent FBS team. But really, with all the question marks surrounding both teams, no one really knows what to expect when these teams take the field tonight.

— Jered Staubs

GAMECOCK BRIEFS

• JSU Athletic Director **Jim Fuller** has announced his retirement from the university after spending five years in Jacksonville. His tenure began as JSU entered the Ohio Valley Conference in 2003, and the Gamecocks captured 31 conference titles while he was AD. Fuller will remain as athletic director through the end of August. No replacement has been named.

• The **Jacksonville State men's basketball team** signed former Nebraska point guard **Jay-R Strowbridge** on July 7. Strowbridge played high school basketball at Sparkman High School in Huntsville before spending the next two years playing for Doc Sadler at Nebraska. During his sophomore season in Lincoln, Strowbridge averaged 4.8 points per game to go along with 1.6 assists.

• Jacksonville State pitcher **Ben Tootle** was selected to the Cape Cod Baseball All-Star West Team. Prior to the All-Star game, Tootle had posted three saves to go along with a 0.98 ERA as the closer for the Falmouth Commodores.

• Jacksonville State head coach **Jack Crowe** awarded some type of scholarship aid to six walk-on players. Quarterback **Steven Beegle**, center **Josh Carroll**, tailback **Brandon George**, offensive lineman **Justin Kirby**, running back **Drec Lindley** and safety **Michael Owens** all received scholarships after spending the preseason as walk-on players.

• The **Jacksonville State football team** was picked to win the 2008 Ohio Valley

Out with the old, in with the new

Volleyball team preparing to move forward without seniors who helped build the program

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Over the past three seasons, the volleyball team has been the face of women's athletics at Jacksonville State University.

Behind the class of Abbey Breit, Abbey Vierling, Rebekah Nichols and Joi Watts, the Gamecocks won the Ohio Valley Conference tournament championship in both 2005 and 2006 and claimed the regular season title in 2007, winning 31 consecutive OVC matches along the way.

"Obviously, I had some great years with them in a lot of different areas," JSU head coach Rick Nold said. "I think they gave us leadership both on the floor and off the floor. They were just a very solid senior class."

Breit ended her career as arguably the most decorated volleyball player in JSU

history. During her senior season, the three-time OVC Player of the Year crushed the school's kills record, finishing with 1,897 during her four years on campus. She also ranks second all-time in digs with 1,324.

Breit has since moved on and is trying her luck in the professional ranks in Europe.

"Abbey Breit was just over in Europe. She was looking at some professional opportunities over there. I don't know if she is going to accept those because she is in a unique situation. She is choosing between playing professionally and going to pharmacy school," Nold said.

OVC opponents showed the Gamecocks plenty of respect during their reign as conference champs, ranking JSU at the top of the preseason poll in each of the last two seasons. However, 2008 has the Gamecocks picked to finish sixth in what is strongly considered as a

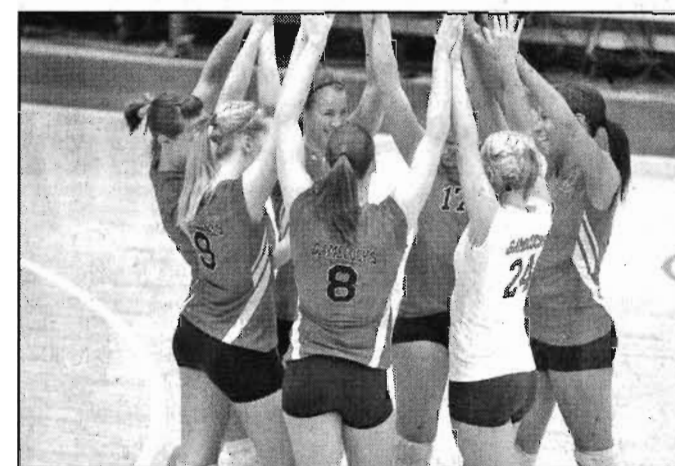
rebuilding year.

"I think everybody is going to look at it and call it rebuilding, and that's fine because whenever you lose big pieces people are going to say that's what your doing. You're rebuilding. But we have high expectations and I don't think that's going to change.

"We will be young and that is part of what you deal with, but I think it's a team that can still excel in the same way that the past teams have," Nold said.

Throughout the past three seasons, the Gamecocks have always had a target on their backs, which comes with being ranked as the top squad in any conference. This year, that isn't the case, but due to JSU's past success nobody should be underestimating them.

"Everybody always picks a preseason favorite, and I don't know how much it really matters," Nold said. "I don't



Abbey Breit, Abbey Vierling (white), and Joi Watts (far right) get ready before the playing Tennessee State last season.
Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

think it's going to change that we are going to be a team that people want to beat. Any good program that has a history of success, that's a team you are going to feel good about beating.

"I hope everybody comes at us because we have the

people we need to play at a high level."

The Gamecocks will open up at home next Tuesday against the Auburn Tigers. This will mark the first time that an SEC opponent has taken on JSU inside Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Different takes on the new big man on campus

I am a graduate of JSU and until recently have been a proud Alumni and supporter of JSU to potential JSU students. My enthusiasm has ebbed because of the actions of the football team. Our coach released a student athlete from the football program because of actions detrimental to JSU. If we release students that are considered detrimental to JSU, then we should hold our professors and staff to the same criteria. We have allowed our JSU football program to lower standards and bring in a student athlete that is by far a bigger "cancer" to the JSU program.

We have allowed Coach Crowe to bring in a student that was released from LSU because of several "unsavory" incidents — the LSU coach and president's words not mine. Mistakes can be made by individuals and they should be given a second chance, but this student has been given more than three chances and failed in each instance.

I have always been proud to tell young people of the advantages of

however I have always been a vocal supporter and champion of the JSU experience. Until now.

I am embarrassed that JSU would allow the football coach to bring in a student athlete that has so much negative baggage. I am embarrassed that JSU would support this by allowing the athletic department to bring him in to the JSU family; highlight it on the Web page, then let coach Crowe speak to the alumni at the 2008 events and act as if this is a positive.

Well, in my opinion it is not. It is by far the most negative story to come out of JSU in many, many decades. The negative far outweighs the positive and I really believe that JSU should rise above and say NO, we will not allow you to attend our fine university.

I am a realist and know that just ain't going to happen. I will feel better though knowing that I have voiced my opinion and hope that instead of being able to say "I told ya so" one day: I will have to eat my

For all the baggage that Ryan Perrilloux admittedly carries, I feel like the guy is getting a bad rap. OK, he did some things that weren't bright. What's the Biblical quote about that? Let he who is without sin throw the first stone?

People are under the impression that Perrilloux has been committing all these heinous crimes, when in truth, he's been involved in pretty innocent situations.

He tried to go to a casino as a minor. I started betting on football at 13, playing blackjack at 14, and going to the dog track illegally at 16. Guess I can't throw any stones.

He got into a fight at a bar. Going to the bar in the first place was dumb. But everyone goes to bars when they're in college. I don't even like beer and I've been in bars.

He allegedly failed a drug test. Umm, over half the people on campus would have failed a drug test at some point in the past year.

The point is, if Ryan Perrilloux was at JSU on an academic probation

he had to let Perrilloux go elsewhere. He has a program that is bigger than any individual. We don't have that program here. The amount of publicity and ticket sales Perrilloux has already brought and will continue to bring make him worth the gamble.

Jack Crowe gets a lot of flak for being too conservative, and at times it's been justified. But he's made a gutsy call here, and it's the right move. He's got a special player, one the likes of which JSU hasn't seen under center since ... well, I'm not a JSU historian, but I'd have trouble believing we've ever had a more talented quarterback.

And I think Perrilloux is smart enough to realize he can't blow this opportunity. When I spoke to him, he struck me as an articulate person who understands his situation.

Life so rarely affords us second chances, and if Perrilloux can mature on and off the field, he and the Gamecocks will give the community a reason to watch something other than Auburn or Alabama on Saturdays this fall.

and safety **Michael Owens** all received scholarships after spending the preseason as walk-on players.

• The **Jacksonville State football team** was picked to win the 2008 Ohio Valley Conference, as voted by the head football coaches and sports information directors. The Gamecocks were tabbed as the favorites for just the second time since joining the conference in 2003. Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Illinois were picked second and third respectively. All three schools received six first-place votes.

• The **Jacksonville State volleyball team** was picked to finish sixth in the OVC's 2008 preseason poll. Morehead State received ten first-place votes and are the favorites.

• The **Jacksonville State soccer team** opened the season with a 5-1 loss to the U20 Mexican National Team. The Gamecocks managed a 1-1 draw in the second game of the season against Middle Tennessee State.

• The **Jacksonville State volleyball team** was named a recipient of the **American Volleyball Coaches Association 2007-08 Team Academic Award**. The Gamecocks were just one of 71 Division I recipients of the award, which honors volleyball teams that displayed excellence in the classroom during the school year by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative GPA.

• The **Jacksonville State women's basketball team** signed four players from the class of 2008. The Gamecocks added depth at the guard position with the additions of **Velicia Bell**, **Destiny Lane** and **Chase Ogden**. Forward **Brittney Wiley** was the final signee for **Becky Geyer's** squad.

— From staff reports

unsavory incidents — the LSU coach and president's words not mine. Mistakes can be made by individuals and they should be given a second chance, but this student has been given more than three chances and failed in each instance.

I have always been proud to tell young people of the advantages of the JSU experience and the benefits of a JSU education, but I can say that I no longer do that. For the first time in my adult life I am embarrassed to be a JSU Gamecock.

Because of unspecified reasons I have not always been able to support JSU as I would like financially,

JSU should rise above and say NO, we will not allow you to attend our fine university.

I am a realist and know that just ain't going to happen. I will feel better though knowing that I have voiced my opinion and hope that instead of being able to say "I told ya so" one day, I will have to eat my words.

I do wish JSU athletics good fortune and I understand that coaches must do "whatever it takes to win," but this goes into an area that JSU should not be entering.

— **John Hill**
JSU Alumni

everyone goes to bars when they're in college. I don't even like beer and I've been in bars.

He allegedly failed a drug test. Umm, over half the people on campus would have failed a drug test at some point in the past year.

The point is, if Ryan Perrilloux was at LSU on an academic scholarship, there would have been no backlash from his actions. He'd have been just another kid partying it up in Bayou country. But because the spotlight was on him, his relatively minor mistakes led to him being kicked off the team and ripped by the national media.

I can understand why Les Miles felt

struck me as an articulate person who understands his situation.

Life so rarely affords us second chances, and if Perrilloux can mature on and off the field, he and the Gamecocks will give the community a reason to watch something other than Auburn or Alabama on Saturdays this fall.

And if JSU is serious about stepping up to the FBS, that is mandatory. People might act like they don't want Perrilloux, but those people haven't been coming to the games the past couple years. They'll come now.

— **Jered Staubs**
Sports Editor

HOW PERRILLOUX CAME TO JSU

July 26, 2004 – Ryan Perrilloux, one of the top quarterback prospects in the country, verbally commits to Mack Brown and the Texas Longhorns.

February 2, 2005 – Perrilloux decides to decommit from the University of Texas, choosing to play college ball in his home state of Louisiana at LSU.

May 22, 2007 – LSU head coach Les Miles suspends Perrilloux indefinitely after he was issued a misdemeanor for allegedly trying to use his brother's driver's license to get into the Hollywood Casino in downtown Baton Rouge.

Summer 2007 – Miles reinstates Perrilloux in time for preseason practice.

September 15, 2007 – Perrilloux receives his first start at LSU, throwing for 298 yards and three touchdowns in the Tigers 44-0 win over Middle Tennessee.

October 25, 2007 – Perrilloux and teammate Derrick Odom are involved in a fight at The Varsity, a nightclub in Baton Rouge.

December 1, 2007 – Perrilloux receives his second career start in the SEC Championship game against Tennessee, throwing for 243 yards and a touchdown on his way to being named the player of the game.

February 8, 2008 – JSU head coach Jack Crowe signs two quarterbacks from the class of 2008, Marquise Ivory and Casey Weston.

February 18, 2008 – Miles suspends Perrilloux indefinitely for violating team rules.

February 18, 2008 – Crowe dismisses starting quarterback Cedric Johnson three days before spring practice for continual violation of team rules.

April 4, 2008 – Weston, one of JSU's two quarterback signees for the class of 2008, decides to enroll in a Mississippi junior college.

May 2, 2008 – Miles kicks Perrilloux off the team at LSU for unspecified reasons.

May 14, 2008 – Perrilloux transfers to Jacksonville State.

— **Jared Gravette**

Changes: Will ensure that both teams play a different kind of football

Continued from page 6

going to do with (these athletes)? No we don't."

As unsure as JSU is about Georgia Tech's offense, the Yellow Jackets can't feel too comfortable with what to expect from the Gamecocks behind their new leader. The last game Perrilloux started was in this city, and he won SEC Championship Game MVP filling in for Matt Flynn.

Now, Perrilloux is the unquestioned leader of this Gamecock team, and he will be looking to announce his presence to the entire FCS. Jack Crowe said he is almost like another coach, and Perrilloux prides himself on having his team in a position to succeed.

"I think the team feeds off me just knowing the game plan and knowing what I'm doing out there," he said. "They know that I'll have them in the right play and having them with an opportunity to execute

I think gives them a lot of confidence."

While Crowe doesn't know exactly what to expect, he says he thinks Perrilloux brings an interesting element to a game that would almost certainly be noncompetitive without him.

"(Having Perrilloux) makes a world of difference," he said. "That's why I say buy a ticket. There's no way I'd make that statement without Ryan Perrilloux walking out there at quarterback."

Still, one man is not going to be able to beat Georgia Tech on his own, and Crowe knows the Gamecocks must get contributions from those who are less prominent than Perrilloux.

"There probably isn't four better defensive linemen on one football team in America than they've got on the field at Georgia Tech," Crowe said. "Now when

you talk about having to protect the quarterback, we've got some young players and at one position (left guard - where Tyler Ogletree was expected to start before suffering an injury that will keep him out at least six weeks) we really don't know who our starter is, against that front ... that's an enormous challenge for us."

For his part, Perrilloux appears to be confident in the abilities of those protecting him and paving the way for Coger and the other JSU backs.

"I think that we're real good up front," Perrilloux said. "We control the line of scrimmage every day. Those guys we have up front are tough, they're disciplined and they work hard. With those three things we'll have an opportunity to control the line of scrimmage against Georgia Tech."

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